SHIMOGA MUNICIPALITY.

Proceedings of the Shimoga Municipal Board Meeting held at the District Office on the 13th August 1886.

Present.

V. P. Madhava Rao, Esq., President.
P. Panchanatha Rao, Esq., Vice-President.
K. Nagesha Rao, Esq, Asstt. Commr.
J. Sausman, Esq., Civil Surgeon.
M. Sitaramaiya, Esq., Amildar.

Members.

Mr. K. Vedantaiengar.
" M. Shamanna.
" M. Ramaprasad Tivari.
" T. Venkappa.
" S. Manjappa.
" K. Honna Naik.

Absent.

A. S. Nagavkar, Esq., Executive Engineer.

Members.

Mr. T. Bhima Rao.
" N. Mojappa.
" P. Gunda Rao.
" A. Sitaramappa.
" L. Chandappa (died.),
" Khazi Sahib (do.)

1. Read demand, collection and balance statement of the Town Mohatarfa. The unrealized balance on the 31st July 1886 was found to be Rs. 1,822—3—3 due for the past 5 years. The accounts still remain unsigned by the Jamabandi Officer. Collection duty has been greatly neglected. Vigorous steps should be taken to clear off all arrears.

	Rs.	As.	P.
For 1881—82	38	4	0
" 1882—83	94	10	5
" 1883—84	14	0	0
" 1884—85	395	0	4
" 1885—86	1,280	4	6
Total...	1,822	3	3

Resolved that the Amildar be requested to check the accounts and furnish a certificate of his having done so within 15 days.

The Mohatarfa Mutsaddi who has done nothing towards collection of arrears, although repeatedly warned, should be suspended, and a competent man put in his place temporarily.

The peons of the collection establishment should be allowed pay according to sanctioned scale. The present practice of allowing only Rs. 4 to Mohatarfa peons is objectionable.

2. Read accounts of Octroi collections for the months of June and July 1886. The Board observe with regret that as compared with the realizations in the same months last year, there has been a falling off of Rs. 214—4—4. The Octroi Department requires careful supervision from the responsible officials.

It is resolved that a good Paigasti Amin be employed on Rs. 10 or 12 for 6 months for prevention of smuggling, and to see that no fraud is practised by the Kolkars at the Octroi stations.

3. Mr. Venkatappa proposed that a bonded warehouse be provided for articles not intended to be locally consumed.

Read previous resolutions 3 and 4 dated 24th December 1884 and 10th January 1885, respectively, as well as the Dewan's Orders on the subject. (*Vide* his Proceedings No. 1129—56, dated 13th May 1885.)

Resolved that in accordance with the resolution of the meeting held on 10th January 1885 and approved by the Dewan in his Proceedings No. 1129—56, dated 13th May 1885, no further action in the matter is necessary.

The meeting however wish to take some steps towards putting a stop to goods being left in the Sayerkatte for months together. There being no charge made for the custody of the goods, merchants find it a convenience to leave them in the Sayerkatte where they are well protected and to remove them whenever required for sale. In other words the Sayerkatte is being used as godown by the traders.

It is resolved that goods be allowed to be kept without charge for 3 days, and if kept longer a fee of half anna per Rs. 100 per diem be levied on the value of the goods as per patti given by the merchants. In no case bales, &c., be allowed to remain in the Sayerkatte for more than three months.

4. Read Petition, Registered No. 63, dated 7th August 1886, from the merchants of the Pettah, and also heard them at the meeting. They pray for a reduction in the octroi rates on all articles except cloths, if the total abolition of these duties is not possible. They represent that the present rates are high and smuggling on a large scale is the consequence. Honest traders are prevented from establishing large mandis and wholesale shops in the town and the trade and prosperity of the town suffer in consequence. At present large quantities of tobacco, oil and cocoanuts are stored in the adjoining villages from which they are purchased by the townspeople or smuggled into the town by petty traders.

The meeting are sensible that there is great truth in the complaint of the traders. The yield of the duty on cocoanuts for instance is not even a small fraction of what one would expect it to be from the consumption of that article in the town. The present rate of duty is decidedly high and represents an *advalorem* duty of more than 16 per cent. It is a question if all these petty taxes may not be abolished and the revenue derived from them made good by having toll gates on all the roads and levying a tax on all carts and carriages passing into the town. This system would appear to be prevalent in all the Municipalities in the Madras Presidency. The Vice-President is requested to be so good as to collect information on the subject and place it before the next meeting.

5. The Marvadi merchants represented that they are subjected to much inconvenience by the charge of octrôi duty on piece goods of European manufacture and prayed that either the duty on this item be abolished or the rates lowered.

Resolved that the practice in vogue in Bangalore and Mysore be ascertained by the Vice-President and the question brought up for discussion at the next meeting.

6. It was brought to the notice of the meeting that the number of convicts available for Municipal work had been reduced by 20 men owing to the transfer of 50 convicts to Mysore for carrying on works there. Of late years there have been a gradual falling off in the number of convicts (as will be seen from the figures in the margin) on whom the Municipality had mainly relied for the construction and repair of roads and for general conservancy of the town. The Municipality has had therefore to resort to paid labor for works. Owing to the income being inadequate to meet the cost of keeping up a large conservancy establishment necessitated by the large area which the town covers, conservancy has not been as well attended to as is desirable nor can funds be found for drainage and for keeping up the roads. Lately 5 miles of Imperial and local fund have been transferred to the Municipality. The total length to be kept up by the Municipality is now 18 miles.

Year.	Highest No.	Lowest No.
1877	300	100
1878	200	100
1879	150	100
1880	100	25
1881	100	50
1882	100	30
1883	100	50
1884	50	25
1885	55	25
1886	45	20

The President proposed the entertainment of a small permanent establishment like the old Public Works Department Khalihat for the proper up-keep of roads, drains, &c., as the employment of day laborers is not only more costly but gives room for fraud on the part of the minor officials.

Resolved that the establishment proposed may be entertained as follows:—

		Rs.
15	Kamatis at Rs. 6 each per mensem	90
1	Mestri or Head Cooly or Mutsaddi	8
	Total	98

7. Read Shimoga Amildar's Itilla No. 46, dated 23rd June last, recommending remission of a portion of the rent of Bidrakatte kaval pasturage, as after the grazing had been let out to the purchaser, a part of the ground was appropriated for planting purposes and for sinking a well in the Maharaja's Park.

Resolved that a remission of Rs. 20 be granted to Havildar Srinivasa Rao.

8. Read docket No. 18 of 24th June 1886 from the Police Assistant Commissioner, Shimoga, asking for the cost of rain coats for the use of the Town Police Force.

The Board find that it was not allowed in any previous year.

Resolved that the fact be communicated to the Police Assistant Commissioner in reply to his docket above quoted.

9. Read Shimoga Amildar's Itilla No. 68 of the 15th ultimo, anent the imposition of scavengering cess on the houses in the river side street to meet the cost of establishment entertained to remove the night soil in that locality together with a statement of houses.

Resolved that the amount required to maintain the scavengering establishment, which is Rs. 200 be distributed over the houses ratably, the proportion being about 6 annas in every rupee of the house-tax now levied on them.

10. Read previous resolutions Nos. 5, 7; 1 and 3, dated 17th July 1879, 16th June 1881, 24th June 1882, and 10th April 1885, respectively.

The Board observe that the open space around the market was resolved to be reserved on sanitary grounds and on account of its proximity to the market. Later experience has shown that the market has not been utilized to the extent that was contemplated at the time of its construction. Though the locality is not central, and is at some distance from the main portion of the town, it is situated on high ground and is comparatively healthy. It must be the aim of the Municipality to attract the population towards this side of the town, and endeavour to get the market better utilized than at present.

With this object in view, it is unanimously resolved that a strip of 15 yards from the market compound wall be reserved for planting trees (a measure concurred in by the Civil Surgeon) and the remaining space be granted to applicants to build shops with good frontages. The matter of division of sites and the best way of disposing of them will be left to the Vice-President who is requested to see that they are not given out to men that cannot afford to build good houses. The adoption of this course, in the opinion of the meeting, will not only result in a decided improvement of the locality adjoining the market but will be the means of preventing nuisances for which the present openness of the place affords great facilities.

11. Read Petition, Registered No. 64, dated 7th August 1886, from Tukkaram, praying that the building site granted him lately near the market on condition of his paying a ground rent for it, be given him for a fixed price.

Resolved that the petitioner should be required to pay for the site on which he has built his house in proportion to the proceeds fetched by the adjacent sites at public auction.

12. Proposed by Mr. Shroff Manjappa, seconded by Mr. T. Venkatappa and unanimously resolved that with a view to supplement the resources of the Municipality which at present are inadequate to meet the demands of a rising town as noted in Resolution 6, Government be moved to sanction license fees from arrack shops in the Municipality and also the revenue assessment on lands lying within the town boundaries being credited to Municipal funds as is the case in other places.

It was also resolved that the Government be applied for leave to have the balance at the credit of the Municipality deposited in the Government Savings Bank, and also that the amount at the credit of the Municipality be reserved for starting drainage works on systematic plan and for the great kumbargundi project.

13. The Vice-President urged the necessity of making an additional appropriation of Rs. 2,000 in the current budget to meet the cost of establishment to be entertained as per Resolution 6 and of the Paigasti Amin as per Resolution 2 of these proceedings.

The Board note with much anxiety the yearly increasing strain on the Municipal funds. It will be seen from the marginal figures that the authorities had originally the aid of large gangs of prisoners to lay out numerous roads, filling up the huge kumbargundi, fort ditches, &c., without much charge to the Municipality. The number of convicts now supplied to work in the town is too insignificant to expect any substantial work from them.

Reproduced from Resolution 6:

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On the other hand, the townspeople strongly urge the reduction of octroi rates as conducive to improvement in trade which is of great importance to a growing town like Shimoga.

Turning to the items of expenditure budgeted for, the Board cannot find their way to suggest any reductions except in one and that is, the cost of the Town Police. They find that under the circum-

stances above set forth, there are no means left at their disposal to meet the additional allotment applied for except the reduction of these charges.

The Board unanimously resolve that the Government be moved to sanction the transfer of the cost of the Police establishment to the Imperial Revenue Budget whereby great relief will be afforded to the Municipality. They are in hopes that with the Police charges thus saved and with the fresh items referred to in Resolution 12 they will be able to pay adequate attention to the requirements of the town, in the way of conservancy, roads, lighting, &c.

The Board are aware that a similar representation made in 1882 was negatived by the Government in its Proceedings No. 7312—316, dated 3rd March 1883, but the Board are in hopes that when the narrowing resources of the Municipality and expanding calls on its funds, as set forth in these proceedings, are considered, Government will be led to see that the present request is not unreasonable.

V. P. MADHAVA RAO,
President.

NAGAR DIVISION.

FOR SALE.

The 25th October 1886.

The coffee estate known as "Harobidkul Dodda Kan coffee estate" in the Chikmagalur Taluk, Kadur District, bearing Survey No. 1, extent in all 195 acres 19 guntas, assessed at Rs. 127—8—0, hypothecated by Mr. Frederick D. Meppen and Mr. James W. Meppen for a sum of Rs. 13,634—0—0 due by them to one Mr. Naranappa now deceased, by a deed dated the 8th day of December 1880, will be sold by public auction in execution of the decree dated 1st March 1886 obtained by Venkat Rao, the assignee of the above said deed, from Mr. Raghavendrappa, the son of the said late Mr. Naranappa against Mr. Frederick D. Meppen and Mr. James W. Meppen, defendants in O. S. No. 53 of 1885 on the file of the District Judge's Court, Nagar Division.

2. The sale will take place before the Munsiff's Court at Chikmagalur on Friday the 10th December 1886. The property is estimated at Rs. 10,000 by the Amin.

3. It is alleged by the decree-holder in his affidavit presented on the 3rd September 1886 to this Court that the 2nd defendant, by a registered deed dated 27th June 1884, has hypothecated the said garden for a balance of Rs. 17,742—13—8 due on accounts as well as for future advances which may be paid up to the sum of Rs. 35,000 to the Agra Bank, Limited, at Madras, and that the 2nd defendant by a registered deed dated 15th January 1885 has gifted one-third of the said property to his younger brother Mr. Douglas Meppen in consideration of the latter's services in the management of the said estate; but that the above two alienations were made subsequent to the registered deed on which the decree under execution was obtained and that the property is held liable to satisfy the decree in whose execution it will be sold.

T. NARAHARI RAO,
District Judge.

FOR SALE.

The 11th November 1886.

1. "Askin"—A thorough bred brown Australian entire horse. Height 15 hands, aged.

2. "Jumshid"—A very high caste and handsome gray Arab entire horse. Height 14—2¼, aged.

3. "Cashier"—A gray Arab entire horse. Height 14—1¾, aged.

The above horses belong to the Mysore Siladar Force and have been at the Mysore Government Stud Farm, Kunigal, where they are no longer required and can be seen at the Siladar Lines at Bangalore.

For price and other particulars apply to the Manager of the Military Secretary's Office.